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NOVELLO'S ORIGINAL OCTAVO EDITION.

ELIJAH



AN ORATORIO

IN VOCAL SCORE,

COMPOSED BY

FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY.

Op. 70.

THE ENGLISH VERSION BY

W. BARTHOLOMEW.

Ent. Sta. Hall.

Price, in paper cover, 4s., scarlet cloth, 6s.

LONDON: NOVELLO, EWER AND CO.,

1, BERNERS STREET (W.), AND 80 & 81, QUEEN STREET (E.C.)

NEW YORK: J. L. PETERS, 843, BROADWAY.

BONN: N. SIMROCK. PARIS: H. LEMOINE

NOVELLO, EWER AND CO.,

TYPOGRAPHICAL MUSIC AND GENERAL PRINTERS,

I, BERNERS STREET, LONDON.

ELIJAH:

AN ORATORIO.

The Author of this English Version has endeavoured to render it as nearly in accordance with the Scriptural Texts as the Music to which it is adapted will admit; the references are therefore to be considered rather as authorities than quotations.

Part F.

INTRODUCTION.

Recitative.

ELIJAH.—As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. 1 Kings xvii. 1.

OVERTURE.

Chorus.

THE PEOPLE.—Help, Lord! wilt Thou quite destroy us?

The harvest now is over, the summer days are gone, and yet no power cometh to help us!
Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion?

Jeremiah viii. 20.

Recitative Chorus.

The deeps afford no water; and the rivers are exhausted! The suckling's tongue now cleaveth for thirst to his mouth: the infant children ask for bread, and there is no one breaketh it to feed them!

Lament. iv. 4.

Duet and Chorus.

The People.—Lord! bow thine ear to our

prayer!
DUET.—Zion spreadeth her hands for aid; and there is neither help nor comfort.

Lament, i. 17.

Recitative.

OBDIAH.—Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments for your transgressions; even as Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, Forsake your Idols, return to God; for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil.

Joel ii. 12, 13.

Air.

If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me. Thus saith our God. Oh! that I knew where I might find Him,

that I might even come before His presence.

Deut. iv. 29. Job xxiii. 3.

Chorus.

THE PEOPLE.—Yet doth the Lord see it not: He mocketh at us; His curse hath fallen down upon us; His wrath will pursue us, till He destroy us!

For He, the Lord our God, He is a jealous God; and He visiteth all the father's sins on the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him. His mercies on thousands fall—fall on all them that love Him, and keep His commandments.

Deut. xxviii. 22. Exodus xx. 5, 6.

Recitative.

AN ANGEL.—Elijah! get thee hence; depart, and turn thee eastward: thither hide thee by Cherith's brook. There shalt thou drink its waters; and the Lord thy God hath commanded the ravens to feed thee there: so do according unto His word.

1 Kings xvii. 3.

Double Quartett.

ANGELS.—For He shall give His angels charge over thee; that they shall protect thee in all the ways thou goest; that their hands shall uphold

ways thou goest; that their hands shall uphold and guide thee, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Psalm xci, 11, 12,

Recitative.

An Angel.—Now Cherith's brook is dried up, Elijah; arise and depart, and get thee to Zarehath; thither abide: for the Lord hath commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. And the barrei of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

1 Kings xvii. 7, 9, 14.

ELIJAH.

Recitative and Air.

THE WIDOW .- What have I to do with thee, O man of God? art thou come to me, to call my sin unto remembrance?-to slay my son art thou come hither? Help me, man of God! my son is sick! and his sickness is so sore, that there is no breath left in him! I go mourning all the day.long; I lie down and weep at night. See mine affliction. Be thou the orphan's helper!

ELIJAH .- Give me thy son. Turn unto her, O Lord my God; in mercy help this widow's son! For Thou art gracious, and full of compassion, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Lord, my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

THE WIDOW .- Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee?

ELIJAH .- Lord, my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

THE WIDOW .- The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son reviveth!

ELIJAH.—Now behold, thy son liveth!

THE WIDOW .- Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that His word in thy mouth is the truth. What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

DUET .- Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

O blessed are they who fear Him!
1 Kings xvii. 17, 18, 21—24. Job x. 15. Psalm xxxviii. 6;
vi. 7; x. 14; lxxxvi. 15, 16; lxxxviii. 10; cxxviii. 1.

Chorus.

Blessed are the men who fear Him: they ever walk in the ways of peace. Through darkness riseth light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous.

Psalm exxviii. 1; exii. 1, 4.

Recitative.—ELIJAH, AHAB, AND CHORUS. ELIJAH.—As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth, before whom I stand, three years this day fulfilled, I will show myself unto Ahab; and the

Lord will then send rain again upon the earth. AHAB.—Art thou Elijah, he that troubleth Israel?

CHORUS.—Thou art Elijah, he that troubleth Israel!

ELIJAH.-I never troubled Israel's peace: it is thou, Ahab, and all thy father's house. have forsaken God's commands; and thou hast iollowed Baalim!

Now send and gather to me, the whole of Israel unto Mount Carmel: there summon the prophets of Baal, and also the prophets of the groves, who are feasted at Jezebel's table. Then we shall see whose God is the Lord.

CHORUS.—And then we shall see whose God

is God the Lord.

ELIJAH.—Rise then, ye priests of Baal: select and slay a bullock, and put no fire under it: uplift your voices, and call the god ye worship; and I then will call on the Lord Jehovah: and the God who by fire shall answer, let him be

CHORUS.-Yea; and the God who by fire shall answer, let him be God.

Elijan.—Call first upon your god: your numbers are many: I, even I, only remain, one prophet of the Lord! Invoke your forest-gods and mountain-deities.

1 Kings xvii. 17; xviii. 1, 15, 18, 19, 23-25.

Chorus.

PRIESTS OF BAAL .- Baal, we cry to thee! hear and answer us! Heed the sacrifice we offer! hear us! O hear us, Baal!

Hear, mighty god! Baal, O answer us! Let thy flames fall and extirpate the foe! O hear us, Baal!

Recitative.

ELIJAH.—Call him louder, for he is a god! He talketh; or he is pursuing; or he is in a journey; or, peradventure, he sleepeth; so awaken him: call him louder.

Chorus.

PRIESTS OF BAAL.—Hear our cry, O Baal! now arise! wherefore slumber?

Recitative and Air.

ELIJAH .- Call him louder! he heareth not. With knives and lancets cut yourselves after your manner: leap upon the altar ye have made: call him, and prophecy! Not a voice will answer you; none will listen, none heed you.

Chorus.

PRIESTS OF BAAL.—Hear and answer, Baal! Mark! how the scorner derideth us! Hear and answer!

1 Kings xviii. 1, 15, 17, 18, 19, 23-29.

Recitative and Air.

ELIJAH.—Draw near, all ye people: come to

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel! this day let it be known that Thou art God; and I am Thy servant! O show to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word! O hear me, Lord, and answer me; and show this people that Thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned!

1 Kings xviii. 30, 36, 37.

Quartett.

ANGELS .- Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand,

Thy mercy, Lord, is great; and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee!

Psalm lv. 22; xvi. 8; cviii 5; xxv. 8.

ELIJAH.

Recitative.

spirits :- Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires, let them now descend!

Psaim civ. 4.

Chorus.

THE PEOPLE.—The fire descends from heaven: the flames consume his offering!

Before Him upon your faces fall! The Lord is God: O Israel hear! Our God is one Lord: and we will have no other gods before the Lord! 1 Kings xviii. 38, 39.

Recitative.

ELIJAH. - Take all the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape you: bring them down to Kishon's brook, and there let them be slain.

Chorus.

THE PEOPLE.—Take all the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape us: bring all, and slay them!

1 Kings xviii. 40.

ELIJAH.-Is not His word like a fire: and like a hammer that breaketh the rock into pieces?

For God is angry with the wicked every day: and if the wicked turn not, the Lord will whet His sword; and He hath bent His bow, and

Jer. xxiii. 29. Psalm vii. 11, 12.

Air.

made it ready.

Woe unto them who forsake Him! destruction shall fall upon them, for they have transgressed against Him. Though they are by Him redeemed, yet they have spoken falsely against

Hosea vii. 13.

Recitative and Chorus.

OBADIAH .- O man of God, help thy people! Among the Idols of the Gentiles, are there any that can command the rain, or cause the heavens to give their showers? The Lord our God alone can do these things.

ELIJAH .- O Lord, thou hast overthrown thine enemies and destroyed them. Look down on us from heaven, O Lord; regard the distress of Thy people: open the heavens and send us relief: help, help Thy servant now, O God!

THE PEOPLE.—Open the heavens and send us relief: help, help Thy servant now, O God!

ELIJAH .- Go up now, child, and look toward the sea. Hath my prayer been heard by the Lord?

THE YOUTH .- There is nothing. The heavens are as brass above me.

ELIJAH.-When the heavens are closed up because they have sinned against Thee, yet if they pray and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin when Thou dost afflict them; then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin! Help! send Thy servant help, O God!

THE PEOPLE.-Then hear from heaven, and ELIJAH.—O Thou, who makest Thine angels forgive the sin! Help! send Thy servant help, O God!

> ELIJAH .- Go up again, and still look toward the sea.

> The Youth.—There is nothing. The earth

is as iron under me! ELIJAH.—Hearest thou no sound of rain ?seest thou nothing arise from the deep?

THE YOUTH .- No: there is nothing.

ELIJAH.—Have respect to the prayer of Thy servant, O Lord, my God! Unto Thee will I cry, Lord, my rock; be not silent to me; and Thy great mercies remember, Lord!

THE YOUTH.—Behold, a little cloud ariseth now from the waters; it is like a man's hand! The heavens are black with clouds and with wind: the storm rusheth louder and louder!

THE PEOPLE.—Thanks be to God, for all His mercies!

ELIJAH.—Thanks be to God, for He is gracious, and His mercy endureth for evermore! Jer. xiv. 22. 2 Chron. vi. 19, 26, 27. Deut. xxviii. 23. Psalm xxviii. 1; cvi. 1. 1 Kings xviii. 43, 45.

Chorus.

Thanks be to God! He laveth the thirsty land! The waters gather; they rush along; they are lifting their voices!

The stormy billows are high; their fury is mighty. But the Lord is above them, and Almighty!

Psalm xciii. 3, 4.

Part II.

Air.

Hear ye, Israel; hear what the Lord speaketh: "Oh, hadst thou heeded my commandments!" Who hath believed our report; to whom is

the arm of the Lord revealed?

Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him oppressed by Tyrants: thus saith the Lord :- I am He that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee. Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die; and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the earth's foundations? Be not afraid. for I, thy God will strengthen thee.

Isaiah xlviii. 1, 18; liii. 1; xlix. 7; xli. 10; li. 12, 13.

Chorus.

Be not afraid, saith God the Lord. Be not afraid! thy help is near. God, the Lord thy God, saith unto thee, "Be not afraid!"

Though thousands languish and fall beside

thee, and tens of thousands around thee perish, yet still it shall not come nigh thee.

Isaiah xli. 10. Psalm xci. 7.

Recitative and Chorus.

ELIJAH.—The Lord hath exalted thee from among the people: and over his people Israel hath made thee king. But thou, Ahab, hast done evil to provoke him to anger above all that were before thee: as if it had been a light thing for thee to walk in the sins of Jeroboam. Thou hast made a grove and an altar to Baal, and served him and worshipped him. Thou hast killed the righteous, and also taken possession.

And the Lord shall smite all Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and He shall give Israel up, and thou shalt know He is the Lord.

I Kings xiv. 7, 9, 15; xvi. 30, 31, 32, 33.

THE QUEEN.—Have ye not heard he hath prophesied against all Israel?

Chorus.—We heard it with our ears.

THE QUEEN.—Hath he not prophesied also against the King of Israel?

Chorus.—We heard it with our ears.

THE QUEEN .- And why hath he spoken in the name of the Lord? Doth Ahab govern the kingdom of Israel while Elijah's power is greater than the king's?

The gods do so to me, and more; if, by tomorrow about this time, I make not his life as the life of one of them whom he hath sacrificed at the brook of Kishon!

CHORUS.—He shall perish!

The Queen.—Hath he not destroyed Baal's prophets?

Chorus.—He shall perish!

THE QUEEN.—Yea, by the sword he destroyed them all!

CHORUS.—He destroyed them all!

THE QUEEN.—He also closed the heavens!

CHORUS.—He also closed the heavens!

THE QUEEN.—And called down a famine upon the land.

CHORUS.—And called down a famine upon the land.

THE QUEEN.—So go ye forth and seize Elijah, for he is worthy to die; slaughter him! do unto him as he hath done!

Chorus.

Woe to him, he shall perish; for he closed the heavens! And why hath he spoken in the Let the guilty prophet name of the Lord? perish! He hath spoken falsely against our land and us, as we have heard with our ears. So go ye forth; seize on him! He shall die! Jeremiah xxvi. 9, 11. 1 Kings xviii. 10; xix. 2; xxi. 7. Ecclesiastes xlviii. 2, 3.

Recitative.

OBADIAH.-Man of God, now let my words be precious in thy sight. Thus saith Jezebel;

"Elijah is worthy to die." So the mighty gather against thee, and they have prepared a net for thy steps; that they may seize thee, that they may slay thee. Arise, then, and hasten for thy life; to the wilderness journey. The Lord thy God doth go with thee: He will not fail thee, He will not forsake thee. Now begone, and bless me also.

ELIJAH.—Though stricken, they have not grieved! Tarry here, my servant: the Lord be with thee. I journey hence to the widerness. 2 Kings i. 13. Jer. v. 3; xxvi. 11. Psalm lix. 3. 1 Kings xix. 4. Deut. xxxi. 6. Exodus xii. 32. 1 Sanuel xvii. 37.

Air.

ELIJAH.—It is enough, O Lord; now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers! I desire to live no longer: now let me die, for

my days are but vanity!

I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts! for the Children of Israel have broken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword: and 1, even I, only am left; and they seek my life to take it away.

Job vii. 16. 1 Kings xix. 10.

Recitative.

See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness: and there the angels of the Lord encamp round about all them that fear Him.

1 Kings xix. 5. Psalm xxxiv. 7.

Trio.

ANGELS.—Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved: thy Keeper will never slumber. Psalm cxxi. 1, 3.

Chorus. Angels .- He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief,

languish, He will quicken thee. Psalm cxxi. 4; cxxxviii. 7.

Recitative.

An Angel.-Arise, Elijah, for thou hast a long journey before thee. Forty days and forty nights shalt thou go; to Horeb, the mount of God.

ELIJAH.—O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yea, I have spent my strength for naught!

O that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that Thou wouldst come down; that the mountains would flow down at Thy presence, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, through the wonders of Thy works!

O Lord, why hast Thou made them to err from Thy ways, and hardened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? O that I now might die!

1 Kings xix. 8. Isaiah xlix. 4; lxiv. 1, 2; lxiii. 17.

Air.

O rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, and fret not thyself because of evil doers.

Psalm xxxvii. 1, 7.

Chorus.

He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved.

Matthew xxiv. 13.

Recitative.

ELIJAH.—Night falleth round me, O Lord! Be Thou not far from me! hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me; my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land.

An Angel.—Arise, now! get thee without, stand on the mount before the Lord; for there His glory will appear and shine on thee! Thy face must be veiled, for He draweth near.

Psalm cxliii. 6, 7. 1 Kings xix. 11.

Chorus.

Behold! God the Lord passed by! And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, brake in pieces the rocks, brake them before the Lord: but yet the Lord was not in the tempest.

Behold! God the Lord passed by! And the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken: but yet the Lord was not in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake there came a fire: but yet the Lord was not in the fire.

And after the fire there came a still small voice; and in that still voice, onward came the Lord.

1 Kings xix. 11, 12.

Recitative.

Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another:

Quartett and Chorus.

Angels.—Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord—the Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory hath filled all the earth.

Isaiah vi. 2, 3.

Recitative.

Chonus.—Go, return upon thy way! For the Lord yet hath left Him seven thousand in Israel, knees which have not bowed to Baal: go, return upon thy way; Thus the Lord commandeth.

ELIJAH.—I go on my way in the strength of the Lord. For Thou art my Lord; and I will suffer for Thy sake. My heart is therefore glad, my glory rejoiceth, and my flesh shall also rest in hope.

1 Kings xix. 15, 18. Psalm lxxi. 16; xvi. 2, 9.

Air.

ELIJAH.—For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but Thy kindness shall not depart from me, neither shall the covenant of Thy peace be removed.

Isaiah liv. 10.

Chorus.

Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire; his words appeared like burning torches. Mighty kings by him were overthrown. He stood on the mount of Sinai, and heard the judgments of the future; and in Horeb, its vengeance.

And when the Lord would take him away to heaven, lo! there came a fiery chariot, with fiery horses; and he went by a whirly ind to heaven.

horses; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven.

Ecclesiastes xiviii. 1, 6, 7. 2 Kings ii. 1, 11.

Air.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father's realm. Joy on their head shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away for ever.

Matthew xiii. 43. Isaiah li. 11.

Recitative.

Behold, God hath sent Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children unto their fathers; lest the Lord shall come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi iv. 5, 6.

Chorus.

But the Lord, from the north hath raised one who from the rising of the sun shall call upon His name and come on princes.

Behold, my servant and mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth! On him the Spirit of God shall rest: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of might and of counsel, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. Isaiah xii. 25; xiii. 1; xi. 2.

Quartett.

O! come every one that thirsteth, O come to the waters: come unto Him. O hear, and your souls shall live for ever!

Isaiah lv. 1, 3.

Chorus.

And then shall your light break forth as thelight of morning breaketh; and your health shall speedily spring forth then; and the glory of the Lord ever shall reward you.

Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory. Amen!

Isaiah lviii. 8. Psalm viii. 1.

CONTENTS.

PART THE FIRST.									
No.									Page.
	Introduction			٠	As God the Lord		•		1
-	Overture		•	•	' '			*	2
1	Chorus	•		٠	Help, Lord!				6
2	Duet, with Ch	orus			Zion spreadeth her hand	ls			13
	-			1	Lord, bow thine ear				13
3	Recitative			٠	Ye people, rend your he	arts		•	17
4	Air .	•			If with all your hearts		•	•	18
5 6	Chorus	•	•	٠	Yet doth the Lord			•	20
	Recitative	•	•	٠	Elijah, get thee hence				29
7	Double Quarte		•	•	For He shall give	•			30
8	Recitative, Air	and Du	et	٠	Help me, man of God!				39
9	Chorus				Blessed are the men	•			45
10	Recitative and	Chorus	•		As God the Lord			•	52, 53
11	Chorus				Baal, we cry to thee				} 56
	D 1: .1	0.7			(Call him louder)
12	Recitative and				Hear our cry .				64, 65
13	Recitative and				Baal! hear and answer				66, 67
14	Recitative and	Air		٠	Lord God of Abraham				72
15	Quartett {Recitative	•		٠	Cast thy burden				75
16	{Recitative	•		٠	O Thou who makest				} 77
	(Chorus	•	•	٠	The fire descends)
17	Air . Air .	•	•	٠	Is not His word				83
18			٠		Woe unto them	•			88
19	Recitative, Air	and C	iorus	٠	Look down on us		•		90, 91
20	Chorus	•			Thanks be to God	•	•	•	97
Di Din myn cwoodyn									
PART THE SECOND.									
21	Air .				Hear ye, Israel .				107
22	Chorus				Be not afraid .				113
23	Recitative, Solo	and Ch	orus		Have ye not heard?			122.	123, 124
24	Chorus				Woe to him .			. ′	127
25	Recitative				Man of God .				131
26	Air .				It is enough .				133
27	Recitative				See, now he sleepeth				137
28	Trio .				Lift thine eyes .				138
29	Trio . Chorus				He watching over Israel				140
30	Recitative				Arise, Elijah .				146
31	Air .				O rest in the Lord				148
32	Chorus				He that shall endure				150
33	Recitative				Night falleth round me				152
34	Chorus.				Behold, God the Lord pa		by		153
35	Recitative, Qua	rtett and	l Chorus	3	Holy, Holy, Holy		· .		164
36	Chorus				Go, return upon thy wa	У			168
37	Recitative and	Air			For the mountains				170
38	Chorus				Then did Elijah .				172
39	Air .				Then shall the righteous				180
40	Recitative				Behold, God hath sent I	Elijah			182
41	Chorus				But the Lord .				183
42	(Quartett				O! come ev'ry one				189
14	(Chorus				And then shall your ligh	t			193

Elijah,

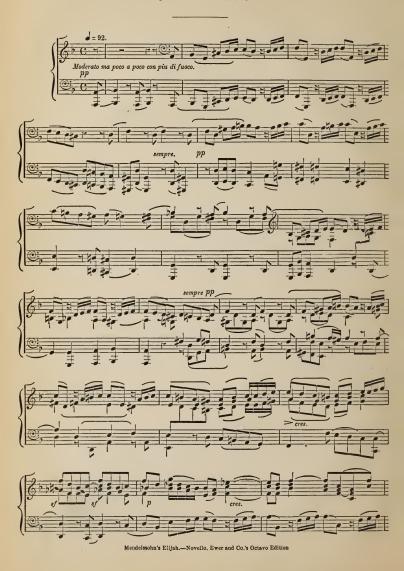
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FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY.

INTRODUCTION.

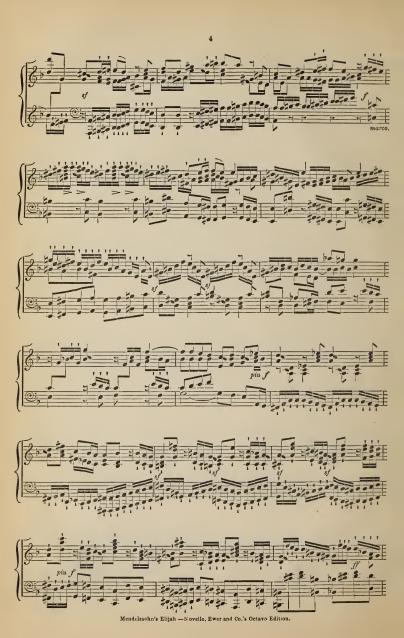


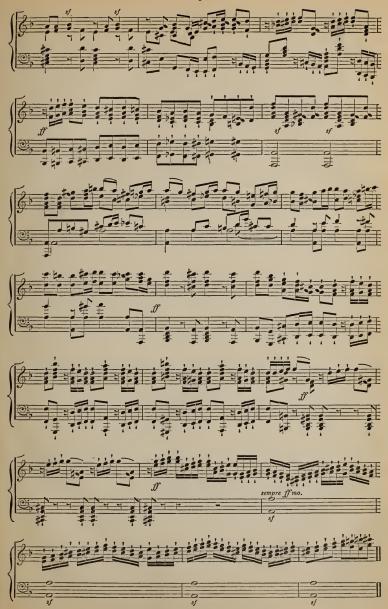
OVERTURE.





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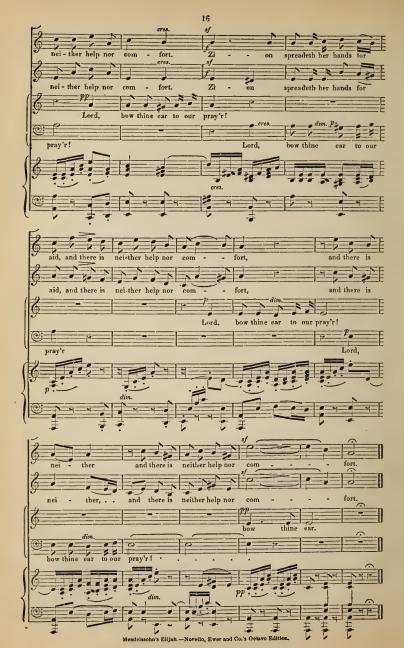




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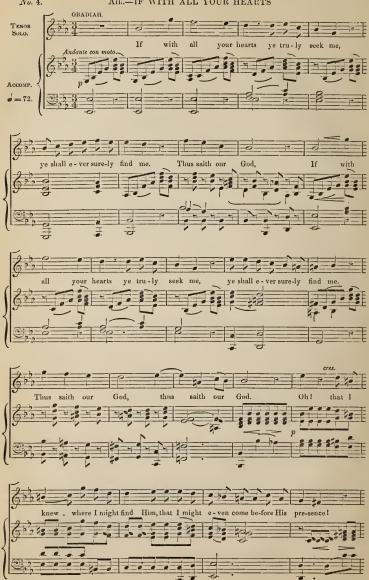
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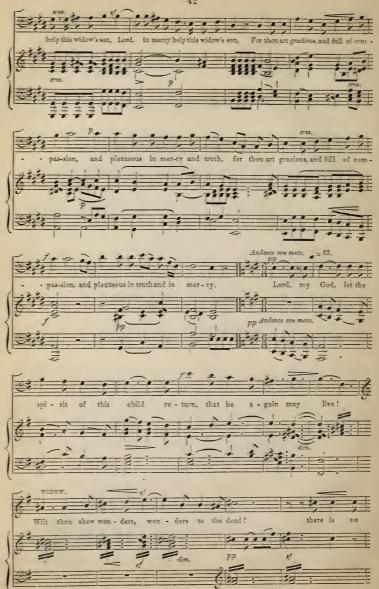
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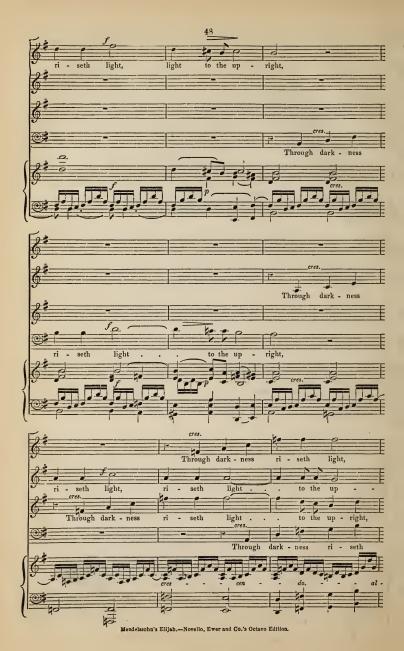






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CHORUS.-HEAR OUR CRY, O BAAL'





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CHORUS .- BAAL! HEAR AND ANSWER.





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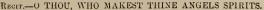
QUARTETT .- CAST THY BURDEN

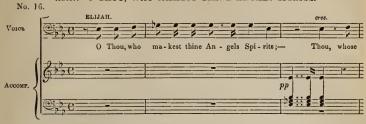




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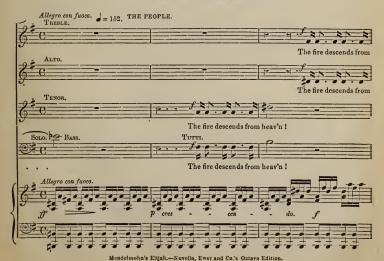








CHORUS .- THE FIRE DESCENDS FROM HEAV'N.









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No 17. ARIA.—IS NOT HIS WORD LIKE A FIRE?



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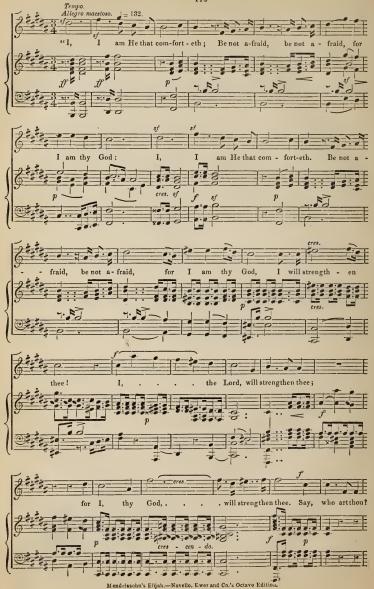


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TERZETTO .-- (THE ANGELS.)-LIFT THINE EYES.









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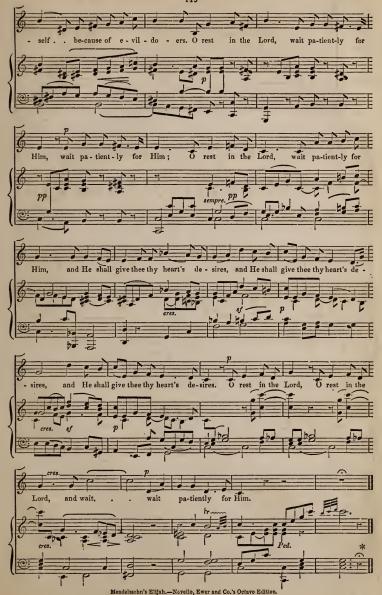
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ARIA.-O REST IN THE LORD.

















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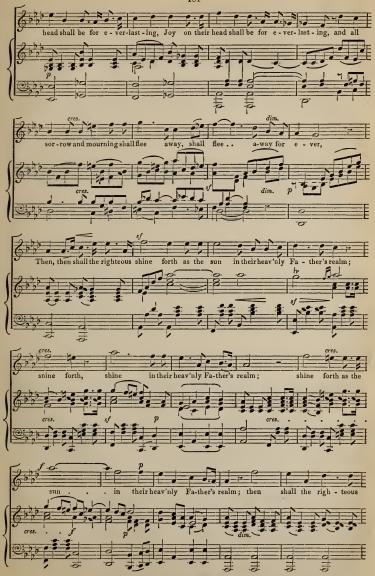




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QUARTETTO .- O COME EVERY ONE THAT THIRSTETH.





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